

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 17-29, 32, and 34-37 are pending, with Claims 1, 5, 17, 22, 28, 32 and 37 amended, Claim 38 added and Claims 3, 4, 6, 30, 31 and 33 canceled by the present amendment. Support for amendments to the claims is found in the claims as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 17, 18, 22, 23, 28, 29, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Misawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,700,607) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (herein "AAPA"); Claims 3, 4, 13, 24-26, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Misawa in view of AAPA and Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,130,420, herein "Tanaka"); Claims 5, 6, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Misawa and AAPA in view of Tanaka in further view of Koide et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,870,556, herein "Koide"); Claims 8-10, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Misawa and AAPA in view of Uneo (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0012072); Claims 14 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Misawa and AAPA in view of Tanaka in further view of Kijima et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,700,610, herein "Kijima"); and Claims 11 and 19-21 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, since Applicants consider that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over the cited references, Claims 11 and 19-21 have presently been maintained in dependent form. Nevertheless, the features of Claim 11 have been incorporated into independent Claim

22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable, at least for this reason.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 17, 18, 22, 23, 28, 29, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Misawa and AAPA, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants note that Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claims 3, 4 and 6.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

an imaging device driven by a plurality of kinds of drive modes, the plurality of kinds of drive modes including a draft mode and a first frame mode;

an image display device having a number of pixels less than a number of pixels of the imaging device; and

an enlarging display setting device configured to enlarge a part of an area of a whole image obtained by the imaging device at a desired enlargement ratio and to display the part of the area being enlarged as an enlarged image on the image display device, wherein

the drive modes for driving the imaging device is changed to the first frame mode such that a resolution of the enlarged image is equal to or greater than a resolution of the image display device,

the first frame mode including dividing the overall pixels of the imaging device into three fields, and reading the three fields of the imaging device to obtain image data, the enlarged image being taken in from at least a portion of the image data,

a timing generator configured to generate clock signals to drive the imaging device; and

a clock generator configured to change clock signals input to the timing generator from one frequency to another frequency,

wherein when the drive mode is changed to the first frame mode from the draft mode, a refresh rate of an image output from one frame of the imaging device is prevented from changing by changing a clock frequency output from the clock generator, and

wherein when the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed, an exposure amount is prevented from changing by keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device.

Claim 28 recites a corresponding method claim.

Misawa describes a camera in which images are refreshed at a high refresh rate in a normal image-capturing mode. However, Misawa does not describe or suggest that when the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed, an exposure amount is prevented from changing by keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device, as is recited in Claim 1.

Tanaka describes changing the frequency depending on the mode. However, as is acknowledged on page 12, Tanaka does not describe or suggest that when the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed, an exposure amount is prevented from changing by keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device, as is recited in Claim 1.

Nevertheless, the outstanding Action cites Koide as curing the deficiencies of Misawa and Tanaka with regard to this feature.

Koide describes that a period of time for charging the image sensing device is controlled by changing a number of shutter pulses to be applied.¹ However, Koide does not describe or suggest that when the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed, an exposure amount is prevented from changing by ***keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device***, as is recited in Claim 1.

The outstanding Action asserts on page 13 that Figs. 5 and 6 and cols. 13, line 7 to col. 14, line 45 of Koide describes this feature. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Specifically, this portion of Koide describes a method for determining an electronic shutter value. However, this is not equivalent to keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device. Moreover, an electronic shutter value is not equivalent to the number of electronic shutter pulses. Thus, Applicants note that Figs. 5 and 6 and cols. 13, line 7 to col. 14, line 45 of Koide cannot be asserted as being equivalent to

¹ See paragraph bridging cols. 17 and 18 of Koide.

keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device, as is recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and similarly Claim 28 and claims depending therefrom patently distinguish over Misawa, AAPA, Tanaka and Koide.

Moreover, none of the further cited Uneo or Kijima references cures the above noted deficiencies of Misawa, AAPA, Tanaka and Koide with regard to the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Misawa, AAPA, Tanaka, Koide, Uneo or Kijima considered individually or in any combination.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added Claim 38 also patentably distinguishes over Misawa, AAPA, Tanaka, Koide, Uneo or Kijima considered individually or in any combination irrespective of this claim's dependence on Claim 1. Specifically, none of these cited references considered individually or in combination describes or renders obvious that electronic shutter pulses are generated corresponding to every other pulse of a horizontal synchronized signal such that the horizontal synchronized signal is thinned out.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

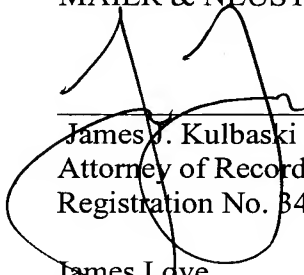
Respectfully submitted,

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